



**BOROUGH OF HIGH WYCOMBE**



# **ANNUAL REPORT**

**1972**

on the work of the

**Public Health Services**

**A. J. MUIR, M.B., B.Hy., D.P.H.**

Medical Officer of Health

**R. F. SHAPTER. F.A.P.H.I.**

Chief Public Health Inspector





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S T A F F

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

(Also Medical Officer of Health for Marlow Urban District  
and High Wycombe Rural District Councils, Area and  
Divisional School Medical Officer, Bucks County Council)

A. J. MUIR, M.B., Ch.B., B.Hy., D.P.H.

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ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Senior Administrative Officer

A. G. Hall

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

\* R.F. SHAPTER, F.A.P.H.I.

Office Address

8 Easton Street, High Wycombe.

Telephone

Office: High Wycombe 26100

DEPUTY CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

\* W. WOODWARD, M.A.P.H.I.

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS

\* J.F. LEAH M.A.P.H.I.

+ D.F. YARROW M.A.P.H.I.

\* K.J. COLDHAM M.A.P.H.I.

\* P.H. GALLAGHER

\* Qualified Public Health Inspectors in accordance with the Public Health Officers Regulations and for the Inspection of Meat and Other Foods.

+ Certificated by the Royal Society of Health as Smoke Inspector.

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Senior Clerk : Mrs. K. Munday

PUBLIC ANALYST

ERIC VOELCKER, A.R.C.S., F.R.I.C.  
1 Tudor Street, London E.C.4.

To: THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS OF THE BOROUGH OF  
HIGH WYCOMBE

I submit the 1972 Annual Report on the Borough Health Service.

The estimated population of the Borough mid 1972 was 60,510, only 580 above that of 1971 and only 61 in excess of the difference between the number of births and deaths - contrasting with the increase (of 2,160) the previous year.

There was a reduction in the number of births, there being 964 compared with 1,092 in 1971, giving a birth rate of 17.3 per 1,000 of the population.

There were 5 more infant deaths and these, together with the reduction in the number of births, had the effect of raising the infantile mortality rate from 13 to 18 per thousand. Of the 19 deaths in the first year 13 took place in the first four weeks of life.

There was a marked increase in the number of deaths, 545, which was 77 greater than in 1971 and resulted in a rise in the Crude Mortality Rate from 7.8 to 9.0 per 1,000 of the resident population.

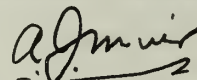
The commonest causes of death were diseases of the heart and circulation 253, (46.4%), cancer 117, (19.8%), diseases of the lungs and respiratory organs, 80, (14.6%). Cancer of the lung caused 32 deaths, 22 male and 10 female.

Notifications of infectious diseases were few - only two exceeding double figures and, as in the previous year, these were tuberculosis and measles which accounted for 25 (pulmonary 14, non-pulmonary 11) and 11 respectively.

To the Council, Chief Officials and staff I express my thanks for their co-operation throughout the year.

I am,

Your obedient servant



August 1973

Medical Officer of Health



ANNUAL REPORT  
of the  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

20 Amersham Hill

High Wycombe

August 1973

SECTION I

STATISTICS :

Area ... ..	7,091 acres
Population (Registrar's General's estimate) ...	60,510
(Census 1971) ... ..	59,340
Number of Dwelling Houses ... ..	18,586
Rateable Value as at 1.4.72 ... ..	£ 4,438,144
Product of a Penny Rate (Actual 1971/72) ...	£ 43,194

RAINFALL :

Pann Mill, Easton Street ... ..	671.7 mm
Mill End Road Pumping Station ... ..	663.6 mm

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS :

Live Births

	<u>Total</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	
Legitimate	964	471	493	Birth rate per 1,000 of the
Illegitimate	8	40	41	estimated resident
				population ..
	1045	511	534	Adjusted Rate
				17.3
				16.4

Stillbirths

	<u>Total</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	
Legitimate	12	6	6	Rate per 1,000 total (Live
Illegitimate	3	-	3	and still) births
				14.0

Deaths

	<u>Total</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	
	545	275	270	Death rate per 1,000 of the
				estimated resident
				population ..
				Adjusted rate
				9.0
				10.5

DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES :

	<u>Deaths</u>	<u>Death Rate per 1,000 total</u> <u>(live and still) births</u>
Puerperal Sepsis	Nil	-
Other Puerperal Causes	Nil	-

# DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE :

Total number of deaths	19
Death rate of all infants per 1,000 live births	18
Number of legitimate infant deaths	18
Legitimate death rate per 1,000 legitimate live births	19
Number of illegitimate infant deaths	1
Illegitimate death rate per 1,000 illegitimate live births	12
<u>Neo-natal death rate</u>	
Number of deaths of children under 4 weeks (5 males, 8 females)	13
Rate per 1,000 live births	12
<u>Early Neo-natal death rate</u>	
Number of deaths of children under 1 week (5 males, 6 females)	11
Rate per 1,000 live births	11
<u>Perinatal mortality rate</u>	
Stillbirths and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live and stillbirths	25

## DEATHS (ALL AGES) :

Deaths from - Cancer	117
Measles	Nil
Whooping Cough	Nil
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	2
Total Tuberculosis deaths (all cases)	3
Tuberculosis Death Rate (all cases)	
Total Respiratory Tuberculosis deaths	3
Respiratory Tuberculosis Death Rate	
Total non-Respiratory Tuberculosis deaths	Nil
Non-Respiratory Tuberculosis Death Rate	Nil
Total Respiratory Deaths (excluding Tuberculosis)	80
Respiratory Death Rate (excluding Tuberculosis)	1.3

# INFANT MORTALITY :

Nineteen infants under the age of twelve months died during 1972, giving an infantile mortality rate of per 1,000 live births. 18.0

The following table gives the infantile mortality rate per 1,000 live births for High Wycombe and England and Wales for the last ten years:-

	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967
England & Wales	20.9	20.0	19.0	19.0	18.3
High Wycombe	17.5	17.2	16.5	9.4	8.0

	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972
England & Wales	18.0	18.0	18.0	18.0	17.0
High Wycombe	16.0	13.0	18.0	13.0	18.0

## CAUSES OF DEATH :

		1971		1972	
		<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>
B.1	Cholera	-	-	-	-
B.2	Typhoid Fever	-	-	-	-
B.3	Bacillary dysentery and ameobiasis	-	-	-	-
B.4	Enteritis and other diarrhoeal diseases	1	1	-	2
B.5	Tuberculosis of respiratory system	1	-	3	-
B.6	Other tuberculosis, including late effects	-	-	-	-
B.7	Plague	-	-	-	-
B.8	Diphtheria	-	-	-	-
B.9	Whooping Cough	-	-	-	-
B.10	Streptococcal sore throat and scarlet fever	-	-	-	-
B.11	Meningococcal infection	-	-	-	-
B.12	Acute poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-
B.13	Smallpox	-	-	-	-
B.14	Measles	-	-	-	-
B.15	Typhus and other rickettsioses	-	-	-	-
B.16	Malaria	-	-	-	-
B.17	Syphilis and its sequelae	-	1	-	-
B.18	All other infective and parasitic diseases	1	-	-	-
B.19(1)	Malignant neoplasm - Buccal Cavity, etc.	1	-	1	1
B.19(2)	Malignant neoplasm - Oesophagus	3	1	1	1
B.19(3)	Malignant neoplasm - stomach	3	1	7	4
B.19(4)	Malignant neoplasm - intestine	2	4	8	7
B.19(6)	Malignant neoplasm - lung, bronchus larynx	32	7	23	10
B.19(7)	Malignant neoplasm - breast	-	15	-	12
B.19(8)	Malignant neoplasm - uterus	-	4	-	4
B.19(9)	Malignant neoplasm - prostate	4	-	3	-
B.19(10)	Leukaemia	2	-	1	2
B.19(11)	Other malignant neoplasms, including neoplasms of lymphatic and haematopoietic tissue	17	12	22	10
B.20	Benign neoplasms and neoplasms of unspecified nature	-	-	-	-
B.21	Diabetes mellitus	1	-	2	3
B.22	Avitaminoses and other nutritional deficiency	-	-	-	-
B.46(1)	Other endocrine, nutritional - and metabolic diseases	1	-	1	-
B.23	Anaemias	-	2	-	-
B.46(3)	Mental disorders	-	3	1	-
B.24	Meningitis	1	-	1	-
B.46(5)	Other diseases of nervous system	1	2	6	2
B.25	Active rheumatic fever	-	-	-	-
B.26	Chronic rheumatic fever	-	-	-	-
B.26	Chronic rheumatic heart disease	3	6	2	5



		<u>1971</u>		<u>1972</u>	
		<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>
B.27	Hypertensive disease	3	2	6	5
B.28	Ischaemic heart disease	73	41	74	56
B.29	Other forms of heart disease	15	13	10	16
B.30	Cerebrovascular disease	18	25	20	41
B.46(6)	Other diseases of the circulatory system	6	6	13	5
B.31	Influenza	-	1	2	1
B.32	Pneumonia	29	42	16	27
B.33(1)	Bronchitis, emphysema	11	7	15	13
B.33(Rem)	Asthma	-	2	1	-
B.46(7)	Other diseases of the respiratory system	2	1	1	4
B.34	Peptic ulcer	-	2	2	4
B.35	Appendicitis	-	-	-	-
B.36	Intestinal obstruction and hernia	-	-	-	-
B.37	Cirrhosis of liver	1	-	-	1
B.46(8)	Other diseases of the digestive system	2	1	3	4
B.38	Nephritis and nephrosis	2	-	4	2
B.39	Hyperplasia of prostate	-	-	-	-
B.46(9)	Other diseases of the genito-urinary system	-	1	1	1
B.40		-	-	-	-
B.41	Other complications of pregnancy, childbirth and puerperium	-	-	-	1
B.46(10)	Diseases of the skin and subcutaneous tissue	-	1	-	-
B.46(11)	Diseases of the musculo-skeletal system	3	1	2	3
B.42	Congenital anomalies	2	1	4	5
B.43	Birth injury, difficult labour and other anoxic and hypoxic conditions	3	1	2	1
B.44	Other causes of perinatal mortality	1	2	1	2
B.45	Symptoms and ill-defined conditions	-	-	3	3
BE.47	Motor vehicle accidents	4	1	6	1
BE.48	All other accidents	2	3	1	7
BE.49	Suicide and self-inflicted injuries	2	2	3	1
BE.50	All other external causes	-	-	1	-
T o t a l s :		<u>253</u>	<u>215</u>	<u>275</u>	<u>270</u>

## SECTION II

### GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

#### HOSPITALS :

The Borough is in the area administered by the Oxford Regional Hospital Board. The hospitals available to local residents are as follows :-

<u>General</u>	The General Hospital, High Wycombe. Amersham General Hospital. Stoke Mandeville Hospital, Aylesbury. Marlow Cottage Hospital.
<u>Infectious Diseases</u>	Slade Isolation Hospital, Oxford.
<u>Maternity</u>	Shrubbery Maternity Home, High Wycombe. Amersham Hospital Maternity Unit.
<u>Mental</u>	St John's Hospital, Stone, Aylesbury.

#### PROFESSIONAL NURSING IN THE HOME :

This service is provided by the County Council. The local Headquarters are at the Municipal Health Centre.

All Nursing and Midwifery Staff are attached to general practices and attend the patients of these practices no matter where they live rather than restrict themselves to a particular area in the town.

#### AMBULANCE FACILITIES :

The needs of the district are served by the Ambulance Station in West End Street which caters for an extensive area in and around High Wycombe.

## SECTION III

### MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE SERVICES

#### CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES :

##### (a) Administered by the Bucks County Council

#### Child Welfare Centres

Municipal Health Centre  
Tuesdays and Fridays  
2.0 - 4.0 p.m.

Community Centre  
West Wycombe  
4th Wednesday  
2.0 - 4.0 p.m.

St Peters Church Hall  
Micklefield  
Mondays  
2.0 - 4.0 p.m.

Sands Memorial Hall  
1st & 3rd Mondays  
2.0 - 4.0 p.m.

Castlefield Health Clinic  
Chiltern Avenue  
2nd & 4th Tuesdays  
2.0 - 4.0 p.m.

St Andrews Church Hall  
Totteridge  
Thursdays  
2.0 - 4.0 p.m.

St Birinus Church Hall  
Cressex Road, High Wycombe  
1st & 3rd Tuesdays  
2.0 - 4.0 p.m.

Methodist Church Hall  
Deeds Grove  
1st & 3rd Fridays  
2.0 - 4.0 p.m.

#### Immunisation and Vaccination Clinic

Municipal Health Centre  
Tuesdays  
9.30 - 11.0 a.m.

Also by computer appointment at all Child Welfare  
Centres

#### Dental Clinic

Municipal Health Centre  
(Nursing and expectant mothers and all children)

#### Mothercraft and Relaxation Classes

Municipal Health Centre  
Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays 2.0 - 4.0 p.m.  
Fridays 10.30 a.m. - 12.30 p.m.

Cervical Cytology Clinics

Municipal Health Centre  
Mondays 10.0 - 11.0 a.m. (appointments)

(b) Administered by Regional Hospital Board

Ante-Natal and Post-Natal	Outpatients Department Wycombe General Hospital Tuesdays and Wednesdays 10.0 - 11.0 a.m.
Tuberculosis Clinic	Chest Clinic Wycombe General Hospital Wednesdays and Fridays 9.0 a.m. - 12.0 noon
Venereal Diseases	Wycombe General Hospital Mondays and Wednesdays Females : 2.30 - 4.0 p.m. Males: : 4.30 - 6.0 p.m.

(c) Administered by Other Bodies

Family Planning Clinic	(Family Planning Association)  Numbers 4 & 6 Harlow Road High Wycombe.  Monday to Friday inclusive.  For appointments telephone High Wycombe 26666.
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(Arrangements are in hand to provide a free service by the County Council Health Authority).

LABORATORY SERVICES

Facilities are provided by the Public Health Laboratory Service at Oxford.



# SECTION IV

## PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIABLE DISEASES TABLE FOR 1972

### (a) Notifiable Diseases

	Notified Cases	Under 1	1+	2+	3+	4+	5-9	10-14	15-24	25 & over	Age un-known
<b>Meningococcal Meningitis</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Smallpox	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	4	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Typhoid and Paratyphoid	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Cerebro-spinal Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Encephalitis :-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
(a) Infectious	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Post infective	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis :-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
(a) Paralytic	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Non-paralytic	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	13	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	-	1	-	-	-	-	10	1	-	-	-
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	14	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	-
Other forms of Tuberculosis	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-
Food Poisoning	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Dysentery	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Infective Hepatitis	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	-
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>-</b>

(b) Immunisation against Diphtheria, Whooping Cough and Tetanus

Immunisation against these is usually started about the age of 4 months - a combined vaccine being used. Individual vaccines are very seldom used these days.

During 1972 1,036 children were immunised against diphtheria, 1,037 against tetanus and 984 against whooping cough.

(c) \*Vaccination against Measles

970 children were vaccinated.

(d) Vaccination against Smallpox

Routine vaccination against Smallpox has been discontinued.

(e) Rubella Vaccination

In order to cut down the incidence of Rubella in pregnancy and thus reduce the chances of development of malformations in the unborn child vaccination is offered to female children in the 11-13 age range. During 1972 1,661 were vaccinated. These children attended schools in the area covered by the Wycombe Divisional Executive.

(f) B.C.G. Vaccination (Tuberculosis)

This is made available to all children in the 13 year age group attending schools locally. 2,279 children were tested of whom 1,972 were negative and were vaccinated. Of the 209 positive 143 had been vaccinated previously.

(g) \*Vaccination against Poliomyelitis

1,006 children within the Borough were vaccinated. The vaccine is taken by mouth and is not given by injection. It is usually given concurrently with immunisation against diphtheria, whooping cough and tetanus.

(h) Tuberculosis

14 cases of pulmonary and 11 non-pulmonary were notified. Of the pulmonary cases 7 were Asians as were 10 of the non-pulmonary.

(i) Isolation Hospital

There is none locally. The Slade Hospital at Oxford admits cases from this area.

\* Refers to children born 1968 - 1972.

## S E C T I O N     V

### TUBERCULOSIS

The Tuberculosis Services is administered by the Regional Hospital Board.

The tables on the following pages give the position regarding tuberculosis in High Wycombe during 1972.

T A B L E    I  
TUBERCULOSIS   REGISTER

	RESPIRATORY			NON-RESPIRATORY			GRAND TOTAL
	M	F	Total	M	F	Total	
No. on Register on 1st January 1972	137	74	211	44	26	70	281
No. first notified during 1972	8	6	14	10	1	11	25
No. of cases entered in Register other than by notification	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
No. removed from Register during 1972							
(a) Died	5	-	5	-	-	-	5
(b) Removed from District	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
(c) De-notified	1	-	1	-	-	-	1
No. remaining on Register on 31st December 1972	139	80	219	54	27	81	300

T A B L E    I I  
DEATHS FROM TUBERCULOSIS

Year	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972
Deaths	-	3	1	1	2	1	3	1	1	3

T A B L E   I I I

AGE GROUPS OF NEW CASES AND OF DEATHS

Age Group	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respiratory		Non- Respiratory		RESPIRATORY		Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0-1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1-5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5-10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10-15	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
15-20	2	-	3	1	-	-	-	-
20-25	1	1	2	-	-	-	-	-
25-35	1	3	3	-	-	-	-	-
35-45	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
45-55	1	-	-	-	3	-	-	-
55-65	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 and over	1	1	1	-	2	-	-	-
Totals	8	6	10	1	5	-	-	-

The above Table gives in detail the number of new cases and the number of deaths of persons on the Register (either from tuberculosis or other cause) notified during 1972.

S E C T I O N   V I

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948 ; SECTION 47

During the year no action was necessary.





ANNUAL REPORT

of the

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

for the year 1972





Public Health Inspectors Office,  
8 Easton Street,  
High Wycombe.

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors  
of the Borough of High Wycombe.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my report on the work of the  
Public Health Inspectors Department for the year ending  
31st December, 1972.

One of the most difficult environmental health problems facing  
one today arises from aircraft noise. As far as High Wycombe is  
concerned it is important because of jet aircraft from Heathrow and  
the low flying aircraft from Booker. Those persons living under  
the flight path of jet aircraft over High Wycombe consider the noise  
to be intolerable, yet persons living twelve miles nearer Heathrow  
Airport would consider it to be minimal. On the otherhand low flying  
aircraft from Booker (especially when towing gliders) is considered  
an irritant to the nervous system by many people who are beneath the  
towing and turning circles (and where no "minimum noise" routes come  
into effect).

Whether the one nuisance is worse than the other, or whether our  
nuisance is not as bad as that in other places is of no consequence.  
If a nuisance exists then it is right that all effort should be made  
so that the nuisance will be abated and if by concerted action it  
benefits others as well as ourselves then this is all to the good.

There is also a growing nuisance from the deposit of rubbish  
arising from the sale of canned drinks (with easy opening devices)  
and the sale of cooked take-away meals, which are eaten as one walks  
to a bus stop, car park etc. That these disposable containers, and  
remains of meals, should be left around in all manner of places is  
a disgrace to the community especially as the deposits appear to  
build up at definite points, and often cause a cleansing problem.  
There is obviously a lack of pride in cleanliness since the days when  
fish and chips were the only cooked meals served in disposable  
wrappings. Unfortunately I know of no answer to this problem - the  
provision of more waste bins is not in itself the answer and evidence  
sufficient to take cases under the Litter Act is difficult to obtain.

I am,

Yours obediently,

R.F. SHAPTER

Chief Public Health Inspector

The following Acts are wholly or partly administered by the Department:-

Principal Acts

Public Health Acts 1875 - 1961

Housing Acts 1930 - 1972 (Unhealthy Areas, Unfit Houses,  
demolition, improvement, repair etc.)

Food and Drugs Act 1955 (Including provision re sampling).

Clean Air Act 1956 and 1968.

Offices Shops and Railway Premises Act 1963.

Other Acts

Agriculture (Safety, Health & Welfare Provisions) Act 1956.

Animal Boarding Establishment Act 1963.

Buckinghamshire County Council Act 1957 (Sections 50, 51 & 52).

Caravan Sites & Control of Development Act, 1960.

Chepping Wycombe Corporation Act, 1927 Part VII and  
Sections 101, 102, 104, 105 and 106.

Explosives Acts 1875 - 1923.

Fabrics (Misdescription) Act, 1913 - Regulations 1959.

Factories Acts 1937 and 1961.

Heating Appliances (Fireguards) Act 1952.

High Wycombe Corporation Act, 1946 Part V.

National Assistance Act 1948, Sections 47 and 50.

Noise Abatement Act, 1960.

Oil Burners (Standards) Act 1960.

Pet Animals Act 1951.

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.

Rag Flock and Other Filling Materials Act, 1951.

Rent Act 1968.

Shops Act 1950-1965.

Slaughter of Animals Acts 1954-1958

Slaughterhouses Act, 1958.

Trades (Misdescription) Act 1968, (in relation to food).

## PUBLIC HEALTH (GENERAL)

### COMPLAINTS

733 complaints were received during the year and they are classified below.

<u>Complaints Received</u>	<u>1972</u>
Accumulations and rubbish	38
Animals kept as to be a nuisance	10
Caravans	3
Clean Air	46
Drainage	68
Dust and obnoxious smells	37
Food and Food Hygiene	154
Houses in multiple occupation	2
Insect Pests	216
Noise	46
Premises in such a state as to be a nuisance	64
Miscellaneous	49
	<hr/>
	733
	<hr/>

All complaints were investigated and, where justified, action was taken - mainly being dealt with by direct contact with the persons concerned. 30 Informal (Public Health) and 11 Statutory Notices were served. Other matters were dealt with by informal action, verbal notice or by practical means. In this last category, for instance, 105 wasp nests were dealt with.





## GENERAL HEALTH MATTERS

Notifiable diseases - visits made	149
Wasps nest cleared	105
Houses treated for other insects	13
Advice given in other cases (insects)	40
Houses disinfested	16
Drains cleared	14

The number of visits made in connection with notifiable diseases increases year by year and in 1972 they were mainly as a result of persons being in contact with, or having contracted an infectious disease whilst on holiday. Enquiries and surveillance were necessary (often coupled by the need for the testing of specimens of faeces and urine). Other visits were in connection with persons entering the country for the first time without valid vaccination certificates, in these cases surveillance and advice being necessary.

Not all visits were due to overseas connections but due to suspected food poisoning or communicable disease arising locally. One occurrence within the Borough was the result of a Christmas lunch at one of the factories. Whilst no positive proof could be found, the investigations which followed showed that this was most likely due to the eating of turkey which was affected by Salmonella organisms and which had not been properly thawed before cooking. The result was a multiplication of the organisms within the turkey through improper cooking. The outbreak was not large but it was serious in that at least one person was very seriously ill.

It cannot be over stressed that the type of frozen food referred to should be thoroughly thawed before cooking takes place. In many cases notices to this effect are distributed and exhibited at the place of purchase and in some cases information is given on the wrapper surrounding frozen food.

Nevertheless one would have expected that canteen management and canteen supervisors would be well aware of this need, but it again points to the necessity for proper education and training of canteen and restaurant staff and indeed all handlers of open food. Perhaps the time has come when no-one should be employed in the category of Manager, Supervisor or Cook, until proper training has been received and proof that that training has been understood is produced.

### SWIMMING POOLS

The sampling of swimming pool water from the Corporation's swimming pools was continued as was sampling from those at schools throughout the town.

38 samples were taken from the Council pools during the year and these were all satisfactory. 48 were taken on behalf of Bucks County Council from swimming pools at the schools and the results were satisfactory, though there were some minor faults in the sterilisation of the water; as a result of guidance and instruction these were easily overcome.

### WATER SUPPLY

17 samples of the town's water supply were taken from various premises and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory Service at Oxford; all proved to be of the highest bacteriological standard. 5 samples of the raw water from supply wells within the town were taken and submitted to the Counties Public Health Laboratories Service for analysis for chemical and bacteriological purity. No poisonous metals or faecal contamination were found.

### HEALTH EDUCATION

Throughout the year a number of talks and lectures have been given concerning various aspects of the department's work to various societies, ladies' meetings and schools, and have been very much appreciated. In all cases they have been illustrated with slides, the majority of which have been produced within this department. This is a field of work which could be increased and is a necessary part of the Public Health service and its objectives.

## SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLIES

### (a) MILK SUPPLY

#### Milk and Dairies (General) Regulations 1959

##### Registration

15 new distributors of milk from retail shops were registered during the year. The total number of registrations is now 76.

#### Milk and Dairies (Special Designation) Regulations 1963-5

New Licences were issued in 1972 for dealing in the following designations:-

(a)	Pasteurised	16
(b)	Sterilised	2
(c)	Ultra Heat Treated	3

The total number of Dealers Licences now held is 89.

##### Bacteriological Sampling

265 samples of milk were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory Service at Oxford for examination by the Methylene Blue and Phosphatase Tests. The former process to ascertain the keeping quality of the milk and the latter to see that the pasteurisation process had been properly carried out. Details of the sampling and results are set out below:-

	<u>Samples</u>	<u>Failures</u> (Methylene Blue)	<u>Percentage</u>
Supplier A	111	38	34.2
C	50	-	-
D	104	-	-
	<hr/> 265	<hr/> 38	<hr/> 34.2

It will be seen that Supplier A was most unsatisfactory. Representations were made to the local authority in which the dairy is situated and also directly to the dairy management. As a result of these representations and of visits to the dairy concerned, steps were taken within the dairy with regard to the sterilising procedure, and as a result a definite improvement was being shown at the end of the year.



The only further comment to make is that it is right, under the Reorganisation of Local Government, that this side of consumer protection will be in the hands of experienced food officers and not in the hands of those officers whose consumer protection duties are usually concerned with purse and pocket.

(b) FOOD SAMPLING

Analysis by the Public Analyst

The following Table shows results on samples submitted during the year:-

ARTICLE	Formal	Informal	Genuine	Not Genuine
Almonds	-	2	2	-
Baby Food	-	3	2	1
Beverages	-	7	7	-
Bread	-	1	-	1
Bicarbonate of Soda	-	1	1	-
Cake Mix	-	1	1	-
Cheese	-	5	5	-
Crisps	-	2	1	1
Custard Powder	-	1	1	-
Desserts	-	1	1	-
Fats	-	6	6	-
Fruit Drinks	-	12	11	1
Fruit (Dried)	-	5	5	-
Fruit (Canned)	-	4	4	-
Fruit (Preserved)	-	2	2	-
Glace Cherries	-	1	1	-
Gravy Mix	-	1	1	-
Ice-Cream	-	4	4	-
Marzipan	-	4	4	-
Milk (Dried)	-	1	1	-
Meat Pies	-	3	3	-
Meat (Canned)	-	3	3	-
Mincedmeat	-	4	4	-
Medicines	-	1	1	-
Minerals	-	2	2	-
Mixed Peel	-	1	1	-
c/f	-	78	74	4



# FOOD SAMPLING (Continued...)

ARTICLE	Formal	Informal	Genuine	Not Genuine
c/f	-	78	74	4
Parsley/Thyme	-	1	1	-
Pickles	-	1	1	-
Preserves	-	8	8	-
Puddings	-	2	2	-
Salad Dressings	-	2	2	-
Sauces	-	2	2	-
Soups	-	2	2	-
Spices	-	5	5	-
Spirits	8	1	9	-
Sweets	1	2	2	1
Vegetables (Dried)	-	1	1	-
Vegetables (Canned)	-	1	1	-
Wine	-	1	1	-
Totals:	9	107	111	5

5 samples are shown as being not genuine, 4 of these were in respect of food complaints and are commented upon in the following paragraph. The other - fruit syrup was labelled as "Orange Syrup" but in fact was nothing more than an orange flavoured syrup. It was improperly described and also the name and address of the manufacturer was not on the label. It was not possible to ascertain the manufacturer in this case and no formal action could be taken. However, that product or a similar one will not doubt be found at some time in the future and appropriate action will be taken.

## FOOD COMPLAINTS

152 complaints were received and dealt with during the year. The complaints were varied in type and concerned different types of food. All cases were thoroughly investigated, warnings were sent in some cases, and legal proceedings were also taken where necessary. Of the 4 sent to the Public Analyst, one was of bread which contained foreign matter which proved to be grease and debris from the machine. The case of the potato crisps concerned a packet which contained a large amount of grease and debris which appeared to have been picked up in the running of the machinery and had accumulated during the run.

The baby food was sent to the Public Analyst to ascertain the definition of foreign matter in the food, but it proved to be almost impossible. However, by taking the matter up with the company concerned it turned out to be a minute blood vessel from the flesh of the animal used in the manufacture of baby food. The fourth unsatisfactory sample concerned Bubble Gum about which there was a complaint; "Bubble Gum" is classified as a food under the Food and Drugs Act. As an inducement to buy this product was packed in a bag with small toys etc., and was very old stock. The bubble gum was not harmful in itself, but was decidedly stale. The remainder of stock was withdrawn from sale and enquiries showed that only one shop had received this product.

Of the other food complaints, the unsalted butter which was purchased and labelled as such was in fact salted. Following up on this complaint revealed that a batch had been wrongly labelled and after notification the firm concerned withdrew it from sale and fortunately only a small amount was involved. Another complaint concerned a moth in a can of imported tomatoes. This matter was taken up with the importers who in turn notified the country of origin. The Department of Agriculture of that country took action to remind all its producers of the need to take action against caterpillars on growing tomatoes from which the moth developed. It is apparent that the growing of food causes hazards in food preparation; one has to be careful concerning the use of pesticides yet at the same time if these are not used then cans of food are more likely to contain caterpillars, moths etc. Even the most stringent of processing techniques in factories will allow the occasional "natural" contamination to arise. Nevertheless any purchaser of a can of food does not expect to find insects or grubs within that can. The international effect of control of food is shown in this single instance.

A complaint was received that there was glass in a packet of popcorn. Tests were carried out in the department and examination under the microscope showed that the crystal formation was more like sugar than glass. The material tasted sweet and the crystals dissolved in water. There was no doubt that the material was a large piece of sugar though not of the familiar household type.

Complaints were received that food of one type of another had caused sickness, usually being cans of food with some metallic contamination but in no case was metallic excess found.

One complaint was received from a very irate complainant that cheese which was usually sold as a mild Cheddar Cheese of overseas origin was very bad. There was no doubt that the cheese complained about had a high smell and strong taste. Many people would have said this was a delicious piece of cheese but the complainant was expecting a mild type and was convinced that this particular cheese was decidedly bad.



The Agricultural Department of the Country concerned sent a representative to examine this cheese and verified, in fact, that this was very mature cheese which though properly labelled was not of the type usually sold by that country. It was usually sent only to special orders. The retailer should have been in a position to know that the cheese was of a much more mature type than usually sold and should have taken action accordingly. Every step was taken to satisfy the complainant but in this case she was not fully satisfied with the result of the action taken as in her opinion the cheese was unfit for food.

A complaint was made of headache tablets which were considered to be non-effective. In this case the complainant usually gained relief from this type of tablet, but suddenly and for no reason they were now ineffective. Analysis of the tablets proved that they were up to standard, and therefore, there was no reason for their being ineffective.

In addition to those mentioned there were complaints of water in Gin and Tonic, which were not justified; that sweets blistered the mouth when they were eaten. Though very warily tested in the department, no blistering was effected and analysis proved no deleterious ingredient. A complaint of a fly in a Chinese meal gives a familiar ring, in this case perhaps right to say "fliered rice!" However as the food was take-away food there was no positive proof and inspection of the premises gave no cause for suspecting it. Perhaps the most obvious complaint was one which suggested that canned prunes had caused diarrhoea!!

(c) FOOD CONDEMNED (OTHER THAN MEAT AT SLAUGHTERHOUSES)

In accordance with usual practice, unfit and spoiled foods from retail shops are surrendered to the local authority in return for a certificate of condemnation or destruction. This is often necessary in the case of refrigerator breakdowns and other spoilage. During the year the following foods were destroyed as unfit or unsaleable.

Meat in Retail Shops	1 cwt. 78 lbs.
Cooked Meat & Meat Products	34 lbs.
Canned Meats	2 cwt. 43 lbs.
Other Canned Foods	16 cwt. 60 lbs.
Fish (Fresh)	1 cwt. 88 lbs.
Fruit & Vegetables (Fresh)	4 ton 2 cwt. 20 lbs.
Other foods	2 ton 7 cwt. 39 lbs.
Frozen food (cabinet breakdown)	3 ton 12 cwt. 7 lbs.
	<hr/>
	11 ton 4 cwt. 33 lbs.
	<hr/>

Soft drinks etc. 13 galls.

Ice cream & Desserts 2 galls.

In no case has it been necessary to condemn a whole consignment of food.

(d) LABORATORY TESTING OF MILK

192 samples of milk were tested in the department's laboratory for the percentage of fat and solids-not-fat. Analysis in our own laboratory is a considerable financial saving in Analysts fees. The chemical quality of milk continues to be very good, the following figures showing results well above the presumptive standards of 3% fat (4% Channel Islands) and 8.5% solids-not-fat. Whether in future "skimming" of the cream will be allowed in order to bring the fat content nearer the standard remains to be seen but at present no such procedure is carried out and the consumer is given the advantage of the improved quality.

The average contents were as follows:-

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Number of samples</u>	<u>Fat</u>	<u>Solids-not-Fat</u>
Channel Island	96	4.6	9.2
All grades other than Channel Island	96	3.8	8.9
All grades	192	4.25	9.0

(e) ICE CREAM

159 premises in the Borough were registered for the sale of ice cream. The registrations covered the retail sale from shops and similar premises.

99 samples of ice cream were submitted for bacteriological examination and the results are shown in the following table:-

Grade I	=	42 samples
Grade II	=	14 samples
Grade III	=	10 samples
Grade IV	=	33 samples

Source of Sample	Vehicles				Premises			
Grade	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV
Soft Ice-cream	2	2	4	24	-	-	-	-
Other Ice-cream	-	1	-	5	40	11	6	4

The results in the table above indicate that the samples of soft ice cream from vehicles were again unsatisfactory. It is impossible to give full details of these results in a report of this nature, but few of the unsatisfactory results were from the vehicles of well known firms which have been selling soft ice cream in this district over a number of years. Neither can we lay blame entirely on the persons who have been retailing the ice cream from the vehicles. The Inspectors of this department have spent much time in seeing that the procedures for freezing and cleansing on the vehicles have been carried out in a satisfactory manner, and sampling has proved that the ice cream mix supplied to the retailer has on occasions been unsatisfactory in itself. As these have been unsatisfactory the ice cream made from the mix must also be unsatisfactory. Sampling procedures also have a tendency of "doubling up" the number of failures in that the checking of both mix and ice cream at one time doubles the results. Nevertheless the position warranted investigation and representations have been made to officers of the Authority from which the cold mix has been produced. It would seem that the samples were satisfactory at place of production and there is, therefore, some contamination between the final production and delivery to the retailers' premises and this was being further investigated.

(f) OTHER REGISTERED PREMISES

There were 51 registered food preparing premises within the Borough, mainly for fried fish, sausage manufacturing and the cooking of chicken. No established bacteriological sampling is in force for the products prepared at these establishments.

It may not be out of place to comment again on the need for training of staff employed in food premises and to consider whether premises should be licenced with a condition of the licence being that a properly trained and qualified person must be appointed in each establishment.



(g) FOOD HYGIENE REGULATIONS 1955-1960 AND  
FOOD HYGIENE (MARKETS, STALLS AND DELIVERY VEHICLES)  
REGULATIONS 1966

A total of 1254 visits and inspections were made in connection with food hygiene and the number of contraventions are set out. There were 503 food premises in the Borough and 81, food stalls and hawkers carts (excluding milk and bread delivery vehicles).

List of Contraventions Found

	<u>Total</u>
Lack of wash-hand basins	1
Lack of hot water supply	3
Lack of lighting & ventilation	7
Lack of cleanliness	31
Disrepair	23
Other provisions	17
	<hr/>
	82
	<hr/>

## OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT 1963

A total of 709 visits and inspections were carried out in connection with the 679 registered premises; 240 of these were full inspections. As will be seen from the tables, 39 shops were registered several being in the town centre; other registrations included 26 for offices.

Notices were served drawing attention to various contraventions of the provisions of the Act, as listed below:-

<u>Section</u>	<u>Number of Contraventions Found</u>
4 Cleanliness	24
6 Temperature	5
7 Ventilation	19
8 Lighting	3
9 Sanitary Conveniences	4
10 Washing Facilities	13
11 Supply of drinking water	5
12 Clothing Accommodation	1
16 Floors, passages & stairs	16
24 First Aid & General Provisions	36
20 Hoists and lifts	3
Other Matters	91
	<hr/> 220 <hr/>

### ACCIDENTS

26 accidents were reported during 1972. 19 of these were at shops, 5 at warehouses and 1 at an office. The following tables set out details of those accidents and the parts of the body affected. Of these accidents, 22 were investigated and although fractures are included in the list the fractures were of a minor nature and generally affected toes and fingers. It appears that some people are quite prone to dropping things on their toes or getting their little fingers twisted in doors and crevices, resulting in these minor accidents. When investigating these accidents, the cause and the situation is taken into consideration and advice on avoiding an accident is given where this is possible, not only to the management but to the injured person.

Detailed classification is as follows:-

Fractures	8
Bruising	5
Strains & Sprains	4
Cuts and abrasions	7
Burns	2

and parts of the body affected:-

Toes, Feet and Ankles	3
Fingers, Hands and Wrists	10
Back (Strains only)	3
Arms and Legs	5
Shoulder	3
Back (Bruising)	2
Scalp	2



Period Covered 1st January to 31st December 1972

TABLE A

REGISTRATIONS AND GENERAL INSPECTIONS

Class of Premises	Number of premises registered during the year.	Total number of registered premises at end of year.	Number of registered premises receiving a general inspection during the year.
OFFICES	26	211	68
RETAIL SHOPS	39	366	133
WHOLESALE SHOPS WAREHOUSES	9	49	9
CATERING ESTABLISHMENTS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC, CANTENS	8	52	30
FUEL STORAGE DEPOTS	-	1	-
	82	679	240

TABLE B

NUMBER OF VISITS OF ALL KINDS BY INSPECTORS TO REGISTERED PREMISES

709

TABLE C

ANALYSIS OF PERSONS EMPLOYED IN REGISTERED PREMISES BY WORKPLACE

<u>Class of workplace</u>	<u>Number of persons employed</u>
OFFICES	3505
RETAIL SHOPS	2673
WHOLESALE DEPARTMENTS, WAREHOUSES	599
CATERING ESTABLISHMENTS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC	388
CANTEENS	59
FUEL STORAGE DEPOTS	2
	<u>TOTAL 7226</u>
	TOTAL MALES..... 3170
	TOTAL FEMALES... 4056

TABLE D

EXEMPTIONS - NIL

TABLE E

PROSECUTIONS - NIL

TABLE F

INSPECTORS

No. of Inspectors appointed under Section 52(1) or (5) of the Act.....	6
No. of other staff employed for most of their time on work in connection with the Act. .....	NIL

## H O U S I N G

### (a) HOUSES IN MULTIPLE OCCUPATION

It is interesting to note that only two complaints were received concerning houses in multiple occupation. However, although only two complaints were received there were 363 visits or inspections made to houses in multiple occupation. These inspections included the internal conditions, ascertaining the number of persons occupying the house (often with great difficulty), the facilities available for toilet purposes and the surrounds of the house for general environmental conditions. Notice to improve conditions were given either verbally or in notice form. Only 3 Directions to control the number of occupants were made during the year but the placing of Directions on a house is kept constantly under review. When a house which has been in multiple occupation appears to be occupied by one family only, then less attention is paid to it but it is necessary to make follow-up visits because there may be a change of occupancy causing it to become in multiple occupation once again. When persons are rehoused from houses in multiple occupation every effort is made to ensure that there is no increase over the number of persons specified either in a notice under Section 90 of the Housing Act 1957 or in a Direction placed on that house.

### (b) CLEARANCE AND IMPROVEMENT

The area known as Saffron Road/Slater Street was made a clearance area during the year and a Compulsory Purchase Order was made. There were 35 houses in the area and a Public Inquiry was held concerning the demolition of the houses. The Inspector heard objections not only that the houses were not unfit but that these "charming little residences" should not be demolished because they could well provide homes for other people if repaired. However, those who wish to preserve such "charming properties" are not themselves willing to live in the conditions which exist or indeed to use their own money in order to bring them up to a standard of fitness, and in any case they would wish the Council to rehouse the tenants in other houses before any exercise of rehabilitation of those houses took place. At the Inquiry many tenants made it clear about the unfitness of the houses and their need to move into better housing conditions. With only slight modifications, the Area was confirmed.

As far as other clearance works are concerned, 22 families were rehoused by the Housing Department during the year and 99 houses were demolished. The following tables give full details of the slum clearance procedure to date.



(c) Improvement Work

Work is increasing on improvements to dwellings both by standard grants and full house improvement and during the year 34 improvement grants were received and 50 standard grants. The improvement grants affected a range of properties including thatched cottages in the outlying parts of the district, scheduled properties (which require maintaining at the same time as keeping their architectural characteristics), and terraced houses. In built up areas the determination of the length of life of a property is very difficult but working within the general policy of the Committee it is reckoned that most of the property now remaining in the Borough can be made to qualify for full improvement grant, though there are still some houses in terraces which are not really likely to have an extended life of more than fifteen to twenty years maximum. In the main improvement grants and standard grants are taken up by owner occupiers. Present procedures allow spasmodic improvement of terraced properties leaving gaps with sub-standard houses. If the housing stock is to be maintained in a sensible way then some other method will be necessary to make sure that terraces are improved as a whole. Money inducement may not be the answer as there are many, particularly the elderly, who do not wish to be bothered with the administration necessary for the claiming of improvement grants. The problem is not easy to solve but whatever attempt is made will call for tact and understanding to make it successful.

(d) COMMON LODGING HOUSES

There are no Common Lodging Houses within the Borough.



TABLE I

## STANDARD GRANTS

Year	Pre 1965	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972	Totals
Applications Received	213	22	27	37	19	26	60	57	50	511
Dwellings Improved	132	22	18	32	24	29	28	38	37	360
Amenities for Grant										
Bath	172	17	24	33	15	20	41	37	33	392
W.H. Basin	176	17	21	34	16	23	50	45	40	422
W.C.	140	16	14	32	14	12	34	38	35	335
Hot Water	202	22	30	35	18	25	53	49	45	479
+Food Store	126	19	28	28	10	6	-	-	-	217
*Sink	-	-	-	-	-	1	4	2	3	10
Totals:	816	91	117	162	73	87	182	171	156	1855
Amenities Installed										
Bath	97	18	13	28	23	27	18	28	25	277
W.H. Basin	103	19	17	29	18	26	25	35	31	303
W.C.	74	18	9	27	21	20	13	33	23	238
Hot Water	126	23	17	29	24	29	27	36	35	346
Food Store	87	15	8	22	23	22	1	-	-	178
Sink	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	1	5
Totals:	487	93	64	135	109	124	84	136	115	1347

+ Deleted as standard amenity 1969

\* Not included as a standard amenity until 1969

TABLE II

Clearance Area Programme during 1972 including further action  
on areas declared previously

Name of Area	Date of Declaration	How Dealt With	Date of Inquiry	Date of Confirmation	No. of Houses	No. of Families	No. of Families Rehoused by Local Authority		No. of Houses Demolished
							1972	Total	
Gordon Road (No.1)	1961	A.P.	-	-	4	4	-	3	-
West End Road (Nos.1,2,3 & 4)	1964	C.P.O.	1965	1966	35	33	-	30	35
Gordon Road (No.3)	1964	A.P.	-	-	4	4	-	3	-
Slater Street (No.1) & Gordon Road (Nos.4 & 5)	1967	C.P.O.	1967	1967	22	20	-	16	22
Desborough Street (No.1)	1967	C.A. C.P.O.	1968	1968	31 + 2 excl.	32	-	26	33
Desborough Street (No.2)	1967	C.P.O.	1968	1968	50 + 2 excl.	53	-	41	52
Shaftesbury Street (No.1)	1967	C.P.O.	1968	1968	3 + 7 excl.	10	-	9	3
Desborough Street/ Victoria Street	1967	C.P.O.	1968	1968	9	9	-	4	8
c/f					158 + 11 excl.	165	-	132	153

TABLE II (Continued)

Name of Area	Date of Declaration	How Dealt With	Date of Inquiry	Date of Confirmation	No. of Houses	No. of Families	No. of Families Rehoused by Local Authority		No. of Houses Demolished
							1972	Total	
b/f					158 + 11 excl.	165	-	132	153
Desborough Avenue	1968	C.A. C.P.O.	1968	1969	59 + 7 not unfit	63	5	58	66
Ford Street (No.1)	1969	C.O.	-	-	4	4	2	3	4
West Wycombe Road	1970	C.O.	-	1971	3	3	-	2	3
Duke Street/ Slater Street	1970	C.P.O.	1970	1971	63	47	15	28	43
Saffron Road/Station Road	1971	C.A. C.P.O.	1972	1972	28 + 5 not unfit + 2 excl.	34	-	-	-
Totals:					315 + 12 not unfit + 13 excl.	316	22	223	269

A.P. = Agreed Purchase  
 C.O. = Clearance Order  
 C.P.O. = Compulsory Purchase Order  
 \*As confirmed



TABLE III

Area in which action was completed before 1972

AREA	Date of Declaration	No. of Families rehoused by Local Authority	No. of Houses Demolished
(a) <u>Totals for Areas completed prior 1.1.63</u>		155	175
(b) <u>Other Areas</u>			
Mill Street (No.1)	1958	4	4
George Street No.1)	1959	1	3
Oxford Road (No.1)	1957	17	19
Baker Street (Nos.1 & 2) & George Street (No.2)	1960	61	70
Bridge Street (No.3)	1962	5	6
Richardson Street	1958	113	124
Bridge Street (No.2)	1958	40	59
West Wycombe Road (No.2)	1961	3	4
Railway Place	1961	35	39
Pennington Road )		91	98
Duke Street No. 1)	1958	2	4
Totteridge Road	1961	2	3
Oxford Road (No.2)	1961	50	59
Queen Street (No.1)	1961	19	24
Bowerdean Road (Nos.1,2, 3 & 4)	1965	36	34
Desborough Road (No.1)	1965	10	12
Central Area Redevelopment	1960/1	37	48
Gordon Road (No.2)	1961	2	3
West Wycombe Road (No.3)	1966	3	4
Victoria Street (No.1)	1967	14	20
Victoria Street	1960	3	3
London Road (1,2,3,&4)	1967	21	24
Kent Street/Park Street	1967	54	62
Lane End Road (No.1)	1969	12	14
Totals:		790	915

# H O U S I N G   A C T   1 9 6 9

## QUALIFICATION CERTIFICATES

<u>Improvement Cases</u>	1972	<u>Total</u>
Number of applications for qualification certificates under section 44(2) under consideration at end of period .. .. .	5	(31)
Number of certificates of provisional approval issued . . . . .	4	(23)
Number of qualification certificates issued under section 46(3) .. .. .	6	(10 + 2 cancelled)
<u>Standard amenities already provided</u>		
Number of applications for qualification certificates under section 44(1) under consideration at end of period .. .. .	14	(69)
Number of qualification certificates issued under section 45(2) .. .. .	7	(31)



CLEAN AIR

(a) Domestic Smoke

Confirmation of the No.18 Smoke Control Order was confirmed by the Department of the Environment to become operative on 1st October, 1972. At that time my staff were engaged in dealing with the conversions of the No.17 area, and the notices and forms for No. 18 area had to be circulated to all householders in a very short space of time. The clerical staff worked at high pressure to achieve this successfully. The area affected by this Order was at Totteridge. The survey for No. 19 area was completed and the Order submitted to the Department of the Environment.

The total smoke control orders now include almost 15,000 houses and 400 other premises in 3,652 acres of the Borough. According to information supplied by the National Society for Clean Air, only seven towns (including new towns) outside the black areas have achieved more than this and the populations for these towns are greater than that of High Wycombe.

The table below sets out details of the orders already in operation.

<u>Smoke Control Areas</u>	<u>Houses</u>	<u>Commercial</u>	<u>Industrial</u>	<u>Other</u>	<u>Acreage</u>
Gomm's Wood	122	-	-	-	11.75
Deeds Grove	388	-	-	-	56.6
New Road No. 1	94	-	-	-	10.65
New Road No.2 )	145	-	-	-	8.4
Castlefield No.1)					10.9
Upper Bowerdean	443	-	-	-	39.0
Hicks Farm	1119	-	-	-	128.3
Quebec Road	201	-	-	-	29.0
*Plomer Hill	120	-	-	-	10.0 (Borough only)
Desborough Avenue	599	11	1	2	192.0
North Western	2209	1	2	1	725.0
Western Area (No.12)	1270	11	18	2	750.0
High Wycombe (No.13)	1377	28	35	8	280.0
High Wycombe (No.14)	1315	24	42	1	162.0
High Wycombe (No.15)	845	35	31	6	112.0
c/f	10247	110	129	20	2525.6

<u>Smoke Control Areas</u>	<u>Houses</u>	<u>Commercial</u>	<u>Industrial</u>	<u>Other</u>	<u>Acreage</u>
c/f	10247	110	129	20	2525.6
High Wycombe (No.16)	1298	31	17	6	227.0
High Wycombe (No.17)	2102	26	26	10	670.0
High Wycombe (No.18)	1342	17	4	4	230.0
	<u>14989</u>	<u>184</u>	<u>176</u>	<u>40</u>	<u>3652.6</u>

### Industrial Smoke

The effect of smoke control orders within the town is to cause any smoke emitted to show out clearly. Many people are of the opinion that there should be no smoke at all from industrial furnaces but whilst this is highly desirable it is nevertheless impracticable with present furnace design and mechanical devices. Smoke from industrial furnaces is, therefore, controlled by legislation, according to the time factor and smoke density. What may appear to be an offence to those who are not aware of the regulations is found not to be so when set against the regulations. The defence which is written into the regulations that an offence was caused by unforeseeable failure in the apparatus is also a factor to be taken into consideration. Nevertheless where excessive smoke is emitted whether it be an offence against the regulations or not, some action is taken to effect an improvement. It is true to say, however, that on the whole there is little offence caused, but in some instances measures are still being taken to improve boiler plant or furnaces.

### Chimney Heights

### Clean Air Act Section 6

Approval of chimney heights was given in fourteen cases the recommendations with regard to SO<sub>2</sub> and possible nuisance having been taken into consideration.<sup>2</sup>

EXPLOSIVES ACTS 1875-1923

The number of registrations for the period ending 30th September 1972 was 30.

FACTORIES ACT 1937

No. of factories of all types	612
No. of inspections (including outworkers premises)	257
No. of contraventions found	11
No. of complaints received from H.M. Inspector of Factories	3

The report as required by the Department of Employment and Productivity is added as an appendix to this report.

P R E V E N T I O N     O F     D A M A G E     B Y  
P E S T S     A C T     1 9 4 9

Agreements in force	10
Total complaints received	437
(Agricultural premises	-
(Business premises	133
(Domestic premises	274
(Other premises	15
(Complaints not justified	15
Total visits by Rodent Operators	2921
Total visits by Public Health Inspectors	349

The house mouse continues to present the greatest problem to the department's rodent control programme. The continuing use of a variety of eradication methods, however, has proved effective in maintaining a satisfactory degree of control.

A section of the sewerage system in the eastern end of the Borough was test baited and found to be clear of rodents. Sections of the River Wye have also had the attention of rodent control staff, surveys have been made and treatments carried out as necessary.



# LEGAL PROCEEDINGS 1972

Table showing legal proceedings taken, and results, during  
1972:-

Act, Orders or Regulations under which Proceedings were instituted	Default or Offence	Result
Food & Drugs Act 1955 Section 2	Sale of Cheese - not of the substance demanded (Mould)	Fined £20.00 Costs £11.00
Food & Drugs Act 1955 Section 2	Sale of Cheese - not of the substance demanded (Mould)	Fined £20.00 Costs £10.00
Food & Drugs Act 1955 Section 2	Sale of Walnuts - not of the substance demanded (web of insect larvae).	Fined £30.00 Costs £10.00
Food & Drugs Act 1955 Section 2	Sale of Apple Strudel - not of the substance demanded (foreign matter in pie).	Fined £20.00 Costs £7.00
Food & Drugs Act 1955 Section 2	Sale of Cheese Slices - not of the substance demanded (Mould).	Fined £25.00 Costs £10.00
Food & Drugs Act 1955 Section 2	Sale of Puff Pastry - not of the substance demanded (Mould)	Fined £15.00 Costs £10.00
Food & Drugs Act 1955 Section 2	Sale of Bread - not of the substance demanded (Bread contained foreign matter).	Fined £30.00 Costs £10.00
Food & Drugs Act 1955 Section 2	Sale of Sausages - not of the substance demanded (Stale).	Fined £20.00 Costs £11.00
Trade Descriptions Act 1968 Section 1(1)	Sale of Meat - false description.	Fined £50.00 Costs £11.00
Total Fined =		£230.00
Costs =		£90.00



# VISITS AND INSPECTIONS MADE

Clean Air Act	Survey & Misc.	276
	Installations	137
	Observations & Visits	518
Factories Act:	Powered Factories	226
	Non-powered Factories	9
	Building Sites	16
	Outworkers	6
Public Health General:	Drainage	188
	Dwelling Houses (Repairs)	288
	General Environmental Health	533
	Infectious Diseases and Disinfection	149
	Insect Pests & Disinfestation	96
	Movable dwellings	15
	Noise abatement	317
	Swimming Pools	11
	Water Supply	11
Food Premises	Food Manufacturers	40
Inspections:	General Food Premises	703
	Market Stalls and Mobile Traders	87
	Milk Shops & Dairies	20
	Cafes, Canteens & Restaurants	404
Food Condemnations:	General Premises	71
Food & Drugs	Miscellaneous	1
(Sections 2,6, etc.)	Premises Visited	279
	Following up visits	169
Bacteriological	Milk	1
Sampling:	Ice Cream	106
(Visits & Inspections)	Water	20
	Swimming Pools	54

c/f

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# VISITS AND INSPECTIONS MADE

(Continued)

	B/F	4,751
Housing:	Clearance Areas	90
	Repair	118
	Overcrowding	3
	Standard Grants	703
	Improvement Areas	366
	Houses in Multiple Occupation	356
	Rent Act	3
	Qualification Certificates	50
Rodent Control:	Public Health Inspectors	349
	Rodent Operators	2921
Shops Act (Observations & visits):		128
Explosives Act:		30
Pet Animals:		7
Animal Boarding Establishments:		5
Miscellaneous Duties		704
Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act:		709

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APPENDIX

FACTORIES ACT, 1961

The following Tables give the prescribed particulars required under the provisions of Section 153(1) of the Factories Act 1961 with respect to matters under Part I and VIII of that Act.

PART I OF THE ACT

I - INSPECTIONS for purposes of provision as to health  
(including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors)

	Number on Register	Inspection	Number of	
			Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Section 1,2,3,4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority	14	9	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	612	226	4	-
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding Out-workers' Premises)	55	16	-	-
	681	251	4	-

2 - Cases in which DEFECTS were found

Particulars	No. of Cases in which defects were found				No. of cases in which Prosecutions instituted
	Found	Remedied	To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of Cleanliness (S.1)	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable Temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate Ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective Drainage of Floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	1	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	10	6	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	1	-	-	2	-
Other offences against the Act (Not including offences relating to outwork)	-	-	-	-	-
Totals:	11	6	-	3	-

PART VIII OF THE ACT

OUTWORK

(Sections 133 and 134)

Nature of work	Section 133		No. of Prose- cutions for failure to supply lists	Section 134		
	No. of out- workers in Aug. list Section 133(1) (c)	No. of cases of Default in send- ing list to the Council		No. of instan- ces of work in unwhole- some premises	Notices served	Prose- cutions
<u>Wearing apparel:</u>						
Making etc.	24	-	-	-	-	-
Cleaning and washing	-	-	-	-	-	-
Furniture and Upholst ery	21	-	-	-	-	-
Carding etc. of buttons etc.	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals:	45	-	-	-	-	-





